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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE

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*Annual Reports*

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Sanitary Inspector

for 1936.

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Stourbridge :

MARK & MOODY, LTD., PRINTERS, HIGH STREET.

(1936).



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# BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

*Mayor :*

ALDERMAN G. H. EVESON, J.P., C.C.

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*Deputy Mayor :*

ALDERMAN JOSEPH WRIGHT.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR RUFUS DUNN, J.P., *Chairman.*

Alderman	W. T. Harmon, C.C.	Councillor	Mrs. Lunt, J.P.
„	Joseph Wright	„	W. Perrins
Councillor	H. Barlow	„	B. Skelding
„	A. A. Bateman	„	E. R. R. Tooby
„	Mrs. Francis	„	A. Walker
„	F. G. Gregory		

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*Medical Officer of Health :*

\*GEOFFREY DUDLEY, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Sanitary Inspector also Inspector under Petroleum and Shops Acts :*

\*ARTHUR KENT, F.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

(Cert. Meat and Food Inspector).

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors :*

\*ROY HAINES, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

\*A. E. K. KENT, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (*From March, 1936*).

(Cert. Meat and Food Inspectors).

*Clerks :*

NORMAN F. COOKSON                      JOSEPH W. BILLINGHAM  
ROBERT F. ROBINS.

\*Salary Contributions made by Exchequer Grants.

# THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with the Vital Statistics for the Year 1936.

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
STOURBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1936, being my Twelfth Annual Report.

### Section A.—Statistics and Social Conditions.

The Area was enlarged on 1st April, 1933, by the inclusion of the Urban District of Lye and Wollescote, and of the Parish of Pedmore which was part of the Rural District of Bromsgrove.

	<i>Acres.</i>
The Area is now ... ..	4,214
<i>viz</i> : Stourbridge ... ..	1,920
Lye and Wollescote ... ..	1,028
Pedmore ... ..	1,266
The Population, according to the 1931 Census, was ...	33,140
<i>viz</i> : Stourbridge ... ..	19,904
Lye and Wollescote ... ..	12,237
Pedmore ... ..	999
Total Population, estimated at middle of 1936 ...	34,650
Number of inhabited houses, 1931 ...	8,164
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1936 ...	9,611
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1931 ... ..	8,477
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1936 ... ..	9,686
Rateable Value ... ..	£164,508
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£617 2 6

It is to be noted that there is a slight decrease in the estimated population, it being 34,820 at the middle of 1935.

### Physical Features, General Character and Social Conditions of the District.

The Town rises from the River Stour, which is the boundary of Worcestershire and Staffordshire, and is on the North side of the Borough. The height above sea level at the River Boundary is 216 feet, rising to 442 feet at the South Boundary adjoining Bromsgrove Rural District, and to 512 feet on the East side.

The Town is partly residential and partly industrial. The industrial portions being principally on the North and North East sides. The South side being wholly residential.

The principal industries are Iron Works, Spades and Shovels ; Chains, Vices, Anvils, Frost Cogs, Fire Bricks, Gas Retorts, Galvanized, Enamelled and Japanned Buckets, Baths and General Hollow-ware ; Horse Shoes ; Skin Rugs, Chamois Leather Gloves ; Brushes and Brooms ; Earthenware Sinks ; Glazed Bricks ; Glass Works Pots.

The Borough own the Gasworks, which are situated in the Urban District of Amblecote, also, in conjunction with the Urban District of Amblecote, are owners of the Water undertaking.

No particular diseases are attributable to the occupations carried on in the District.

The estimated number of persons unemployed, according to the registers of the Employment Exchange, at the end of 1936 was 135, viz. :— Men, 100. Women, 25. Boys, nil. Girls, 10.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

#### BIRTHS.

##### *Live Births.*

				M.		F.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	249	...	234	...	483
Illegitimate	...	...	...	11	...	13	...	24
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
				260		247		507
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population : 14.63

Birth Rate for England and Wales : ... .. 14.8

The Birth Rate has increased from 13.84 in 1935 to 14.63 in 1936 ; this is satisfactory but it is regrettable to note that many of the extra number of births were illegitimate.

##### *Still Births :*

				M.		F.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	11	...	13	...	24
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	...	1	...	1
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
				11		14		25
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... .. 46.99

#### DEATHS.

Males	...	...	...	...	...	...	204
Females	...	...	...	...	...	...	185
							<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	389
							<hr/>

Crude Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population 11.23

Adjusted Death Rate ... .. 11.68

The adjusted Death Rate is obtained by multiplication of the Crude Death Rate by a comparability factor 1.04, supplied by the Registrar General.

Death Rate for England and Wales ... .. 12.1



### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	1	1.88
Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	1	1.88
	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	<hr/> 3.76 <hr/>

One patient died from Sepsis and the other from Heart Failure, resulting from long standing kidney and thyroid disease.

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales were :—

Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	1.40
Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	2.41
	<hr/> 3.81 <hr/>

The number of deaths is, with the exception of 1933 when these were 2, and in 1926 when these were 3, higher than any year during the past 10 years. The average for the 10 years, 1926—1935, being Puerperal Sepsis .7; other Puerperal causes .2.

### Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ... ..	9	13	22
Illegitimate ... ..	1	—	1
	<hr/> 10 <hr/>	<hr/> 13 <hr/>	<hr/> 23 <hr/>

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age :—

All infants, per 1000 live births ... ..	45.36
Legitimate Infants, per 1000 legitimate live births ... ..	45.55
Illegitimate infants, per 1000 illegitimate live births... ..	41.66

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 59 per 1000 live births.

### Cause of Death of Infants under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Total Number of Deaths.	Deaths under One Month.
Broncho Pneumonia ... ..	7	3
Prematurity ... ..	6	6
Congenital Abnormalities ... ..	4	2
Difficult Labour ... ..	1	1
Insufficient Vitality ... ..	1	1
Marasmus ... ..	1	1
Intestinal obstruction ... ..	1	1
Bronchitis ... ..	1	—
Pertussis ... ..	1	—
TOTALS	<hr/> 23 <hr/>	<hr/> 15 <hr/>

It will be seen that nearly two thirds of the Infantile Deaths occur during the first month of life.



## CAUSES OF DEATH.

					M.	F.
1	Typhoid Fever, etc....	...	...	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	—	1
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	2
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	3	2
6	Influenza	...	...	...	4	5
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	1
8	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
9	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	18	11
10	Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	3	—
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	1	—
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	...	...	...	1	—
13	Cancer	...	...	...	27	20
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	4
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	17	14
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	50	47
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	7	8
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	7	7
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	11	8
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1	2
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	—	2
23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	1
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	—	—
26	Other Diseases of Liver	...	...	...	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	5	2
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	5	5
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	1
30	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	—	1
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	...	...	...	6	9

CAUSES OF DEATH—(Continued).							M.	F.
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	...	8	13
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
34	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	...	11	3
35	Other Defined Causes	...	...	...	...	...	16	14
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
SPECIAL CAUSES (included in No. 35 above)								
	Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Total							204	185

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	47
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	—

The deaths were distributed as follows :—

	Internal Deaths.	External Deaths.	Total Deaths.
Stourbridge ...	164	81	245
Lye and Wollescote ...	99	36	135
Pedmore ...	8	1	9
	271	118	389

### Comments on Causes of Death.

Heart Disease accounted for by far the largest number of deaths, viz., 97 out of 389, i.e., 1 in 4. In addition there were 15 deaths from other Circulatory Diseases, making 112 in all, i.e., 28.79% of the total deaths. There were 31 deaths from Cerebral Haemorrhage. Cancer accounted for 47 deaths, i.e., 1 in 8; this shows a decrease from 1935 when there were 65 deaths. The third main cause of death was Respiratory Diseases; there being 36 deaths from Pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc. 32 deaths were due to Tuberculosis, 29 being Pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary; there were 19 deaths from Tuberculosis in 1935. 21 deaths were certified as being due to Senility.

### Zymotic Diseases.

There were 18 deaths from Zymotic Diseases as compared with 29 in the previous year.

The Deaths were as follows :—Scarlet Fever, 1; Diphtheria, 5; Measles 1; Whooping Cough 2; and Influenza 9; giving a Zymotic Death Rate of 0.52.

The Death Rate per 1000 population were:—

Scarlet Fever	0.03 as compared with 0.01 for England and Wales.
Diphtheria	0.15 as compared with 0.07 for England and Wales.
Measles	0.03 as compared with 0.07 for England and Wales.
Whooping Cough	0.06 as compared with 0.05 for England and Wales.
Influenza	0.26 as compared with 0.14 for England and Wales.

Deaths from Diphtheria are mainly preventable, but for this to take place early treatment is essential. It cannot be too strongly urged that any child suffering from a sore throat or any hoarseness of the voice should be seen by a doctor at once. Parents of young children would be well advised to take advantage of the facilities provided by the Town Council for immunisation against this disease.

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.**

### **(a) Laboratory Facilities.**

Examination of clinical material (Sputum, swabs, etc.), water, milk and foodstuffs is done by the Worcestershire County Analyst.

### **(b) Ambulance Facilities.**

For Infectious Cases a motor ambulance is provided by the Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital.

For Non-Infectious Cases. Two motor ambulances under the control of two local Committees, which are affiliated to the Home Service Ambulance Committee, and kept respectively at the Corporation Depot, Birmingham Street (Telephone No. 5482), and in the yard at rear of Fire Station, Lye.

These facilities are adequate, and there are no restrictions as to distance or boundary.

### **(c) Nursing in the Home.**

(a) GENERAL. The Stourbridge District Nursing Association, which is a voluntary organisation, employs two Nurses, whose services are available for residents in the Stourbridge and Pedmore Areas. During 1936, the Lye and Wollescote Nursing Association, also a voluntary organization, was closed down, but early in 1937, the organization was reformed and a new committee elected.

(b) There is no provision for Professional Nursing of cases of Infectious Diseases treated at home.

### **(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

The Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre at No. 40, New Road, is under the control of a Voluntary Committee and a contribution is made by the Town Council to the funds of this Committee. The Town Council own the premises occupied by the Centre.

The Centre is open on Tuesday and Wednesday in each week from 2 till 4-30 p.m., and every morning from 9 till 10.



Ladies of the Committee assist at the Welfare Centre in helping to weigh the babies and giving tea to the mothers.

Milk and other foods are given in necessitous cases or supplied at a low cost. The County Milk Scheme for mothers and infants has been adopted by this Welfare Committee.

Dr. R. L. Corlett attends at the Centre on Tuesday afternoons, and on the first and third Wednesday afternoons in each month.

Dental and Orthopaedic Clinics, under the auspices of the Worcestershire County Council, are also held at the Centre. Mr. Naughton Dunn, of Birmingham, attends the Orthopaedic Clinic twice every month, but the Clinic is open every Thursday at 9-30 a.m.

The Ante-natal Clinic was opened in October, 1927, and is held twice a month. Dr. Eileen Bulmer attends the Clinic on the first and third Tuesday mornings in the month. An Ante-natal Clinic is also held at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, at 10 a.m.

The attendances at these Clinics are being well maintained, they are proving a great help not only to expectant mothers but also to local Medical Practitioners.

A Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases is held at the Corbett Hospital Stourbridge. The Centre is under the control of the Corbett Hospital. Grants are made by the Worcestershire and Staffordshire County Councils. The Medical Officer attends on Monday and Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.—the former for women and children and the latter for men. Intermediate Treatment for women is by arrangement. For men each evening except Sunday and Monday.

A Clinic for Immunisation of Children against Diphtheria is held by arrangement at the Town Hall, Stourbridge, and at the Connops Lane Methodist School, Lye.

The Clinic is provided free by the Borough Council.

A Clinic for Investigation of Mental Diseases is held at the Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, each Friday, at 1-45 p.m. This is under the control of the County Council and the Medical Superintendent of the Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Bromsgrove, is in charge of it.

The School Clinic is held every Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon in the special building attached to Enville Street School. It is under the control of the County Council and one of the Assistant County Medical Officers is in charge.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is held every Monday at 5 p.m. at the Dispensary, Greenfield Avenue, Stourbridge. It is provided by the Worcestershire County Council.

The Health Visitor (Miss E. E. Noke, S.R.N., S.C.M., Certs. Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors and School Nurses and for Maternity and Child Welfare Workers, also Diploma for Health Visitors) reports as follows:—

Notification of Births received from County Medical Officer:—

Males, 169; Females, 160; Still Births, 16. Total Number of Live Births, 329.



Of the Births notified, 73 were at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home Stourbridge, 10 at Sandfield House Maternity Home, Wordsley, and 6 at other Nursing Homes.

Home Visiting :—

Number of Primary Visits paid to Infants	...	300
Revisits to Infants under one year	...	1337
Revisits to children between one and five	...	2266

Attendances at Infant Welfare Centre and Toddlers' Clinic, January 1st to December 31st, 1936 :—

Number of Infants brought to the Centre for the first time	...	285
Total Number of Children attending the Centre		680

Total attendances at Centre :—

Children under one year	...	3469
Children between the ages of one and five	...	2787

A special Toddlers Clinic with Dr. R. L. Corlett in attendance is held on the first and third Wednesdays in each month. This is intended for the supervision of the health of children between the ages of one and five years.

Ante-Natal Clinic :—

Number of expectant mothers who attended the Clinic for the first time	...	117
Total Number attending	...	408
Ante-Natal Home Visits :—		
Total Number of Visits	...	130

*Infant Life Protection Act, 1908.*

*Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.*

Six children have been under supervision during the year. One child has now left the district, and two have reached the age of nine years and are no longer subject to supervision.

All the homes are satisfactory.

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

Three cases have been attended during the year. Each child has made a good recovery.

### **(e) Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.**

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Purpose.</i>	<i>No. of beds.</i>
North Worcs. Isolation.	Hayley Green, near Halesowen.	Infectious Diseases	60
"	"	Tuberculosis	17
"	"	Smallpox	8
Corbett	Amblecote, near Stourbridge.	General	95
Sandfield House	Wordsley	Maternity	18
"	"	M.D. and Poor Law	607
Mary Stevens' Maternity Home.	Stourbridge	Maternity	16

A scheme, prepared under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, came into operation during the year. This allowed for the extension of the Joint Constitution of the Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green so as to include the Boroughs of Stourbridge, Halesowen, Kidderminster and Bewdley, the Urban District of Stourport, and the Kidderminster Rural District.

This Hospital, now known as the North Worcestershire Isolation Hospital, has three wards for infectious Diseases, containing 59 beds, 29 for males and 30 for females, and one ward with one bed for Enteric Fever. The Tuberculosis block has two wards, with 14 beds, and three shelters for males. At the Smallpox Hospital there are two wards, each containing 4 beds.

Sandfield House (Wordsley) is now a Public Assistance Institution under the Staffordshire County Council.

The Corbett Hospital, which is a General Hospital, is situated in the Urban District of Amblecote, but is used by inhabitants of this Borough. It is a voluntary hospital, and has 34 beds for males, 30 for females, and 24 for children. There is also one isolation bed, and six private beds. The cases admitted are approximately 60 per cent surgical and 40 per cent medical.

Through the generosity of Mrs. A. B. Maresca, of Prospect House, Stourbridge, a complete ultra-modern X-ray apparatus was installed during 1935. Mrs. Maresca also defrayed the cost of the structural alterations necessary to accommodate such a large plant. Dr. G. E. Dyas was appointed as Hon. Radiologist, and sees out-patients on Wednesday mornings at 10 o'clock.

One male and one female bed are allotted to the Venereal Disease Treatment Centre, for use when necessary. The small ward formerly used for maternity cases has been abolished, because of the provision of the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, as, with the exception of extreme abnormal cases, very little maternity work is done.

Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum requiring In-patient treatment are sent either to Kidderminster or to Dudley General Hospitals.

Cases of Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia are treated at the General Hospital and the Women's Hospital, Birmingham, by arrangement with the County Council.

Cases of combined Pregnancy and Venereal Disease requiring In-patient treatment are admitted to Cleveland House, Wolverhampton.

Tuberculosis cases requiring Sanatorium treatment are sent by the County Council to Knightwick, Hill Top, Bromsgrove or Hayley Green. Orthopaedic cases in children—Tuberculosis or otherwise—are sent by arrangement to the "Woodlands," Northfield, Birmingham.

A special clinic for Ear, Nose and Throat cases was established at the Corbett Hospital, under Mr. Bernard G. Goodwin, F.R.C.S. Similiar cases are also treated at the Queen's, General, and Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, Birmingham.

In addition, considerable use is made by inhabitants of the Birmingham Hospitals for all purposes.



Special departments for the treatment of Ophthalmic Diseases are held at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge, on Thursdays, at 9 a.m., and at the Guest Hospital, Dudley, on Thursdays, at 2 p.m.; for the treatment of Orthopaedic conditions at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge, on Mondays, at 10-0 a.m. and for Ear, Nose and Throat conditions at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

### Legislation in Force.

#### ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS, ETC.

The following are the Adoptive Acts, Byelaws and Local Regulations relating to Public Health, in force in the District, with the date of adoption :—

Stourbridge Improvement Act	...	...	...	1825
Stourbridge Improvement Act	...	...	...	1866
Stourbridge Improvement Commissioners Act	...	...	...	1891
Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890	...	...	...	1894
Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890, 6th April,				
				1891, 26th Nov. 1901, and 30th Aug., 1909
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (parts)				16th Feb., 1910
Housing of Working Classes Act, 1890, Part III.	...	...	...	Dec. 1901
Public Health Act, 1925, (except Secs. 21, 22 and 44)				30th Aug. 1927
ditto				(Secs. 21, 22 and 44) 26th Sep. 1927

#### BYELAWS.

Offensive Trades	...	...	...	15th Sep. 1890.
Blood Boiler				Leather Dresser
Blood Drier				Size Maker
Bone Boiler				Soap Boiler
Fat Melter or Fat Extractor				Tallow Melter
Fellmonger				Tanner
Glue Maker				Tripe Boiler
Gut Scraper				
Markets and Fairs	...	...	...	14th Aug. 1867.
Markets	...	...	...	15th Sep. 1890.
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	15th Sep. 1890.
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	15th Sep. 1890.
W.C.'s to be supplied with Water				29th July 1895.
Nuisances	...	...	...	20th Oct. 1911.
Public Baths	...	...	...	13th Oct. 1916.
Libraries	...	...	...	13th Oct. 1916.
Mortuary	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
Pleasure Grounds	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
Hackney Carriages	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
Omnibuses	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures				10th Jan. 1917.
Cleansing of Footpaths, etc., Earthclosets and				
Cesspools	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
New Streets and Buildings	...	...	...	7th April 1927.
Behaviour of Passengers in Vehicles	...	...	...	2nd Feb. 1927.
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	2nd April 1930.
Houses Let in Lodgings	...	...	...	9th April 1930.

## MORTUARY.

During the year the bodies of twenty-four people were conveyed to the Mortuary, the causes of death being as follows :—

Natural causes	13 residents,	4 non-residents,
Accidents	1 resident,	3 non-residents,
Suicides	2 residents,	1 non-resident,

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water.

There has been no alteration in the water supply.

The supply is satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity.

There is no filtration, the water being pumped direct into mains. There is, however, a Reservoir at Doctor's Hill, Stourbridge, serving to augment the pressure, the surplus water during the night going into the Reservoir.

The following is the result of an analysis of a sample from the Coalbournbrook supply, taken on 15th December 1936.

					<i>Grains per gallon.</i>
Solids in suspension ...	...	...	...	...	None
Solids in solution dried at 100°C.	...	...	...	...	37.1
Solids in solution Appearance	...	...	...	...	White
Solids in solution after ignition	...	...	...	...	30.8
Behaviour of solids on ignition	...	...	...	...	Slight browning
Phosphates ...	...	...	...	...	None
Chlorine calculated as common salt	...	...	...	...	6.9
Free and saline ammonia ...	...	...	...	...	.0006
Albuminoid ammonia ...	...	...	...	...	.0008
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	...	...	...	...	.009
Nitrogen in nitrates ...	...	...	...	...	.9
Appearance ...	...	...	...	...	Clear
Deposit ...	...	...	...	...	None
Smell ...	...	...	...	...	None
Hardness : Permanent	...	...	...	...	9.5° Clark
Temporary	...	...	...	...	10.5° Clark
Total ...	...	...	...	...	20.0° Clark
Poisonous Metals ...	...	...	...	...	None detected

“*Remarks*: Upon the above Chemical Analysis the water may be used for drinking purposes. The nitrates, however are rather high.”

A Bacteriological examination has not been made.

The supply is obtained from three boreholes: (1) Coalbournbrook, 501 feet deep, mottled sandstone and pebble beds; (2) Mill Meadow, 350 feet deep, sandstone; (3) Tack, (Wordsley), 210 feet deep, mottled sandstone and pebble beds. The latter two are standbys. Nos. 1 and 2 are in the Urban District of Amblecote and No. 3 in the Urban District of Brierley Hill.

The Corporation Baths and several works pump water from their own wells. A considerable number of houses supplement the water supply by having rain-water cisterns on their premises, many being underground. The recently erected Council Houses have underground rainwater cisterns.

A number of houses at Pedmore have a privately owned water supply.



### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The Stourbridge area was sewered in 1887 and the Lye and Wollescote area about 1900. The Main sewers in the Stourbridge area are under the control of the Stourbridge Main Drainage Board, consisting of representatives of the Stourbridge and Amblecote Councils. The Sewers in Lye and Wollescote area are under the control of the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board. The sewage is conveyed to the Whittington sewage farms belonging to these Boards, and is treated on the Broad Irrigation principle.

With the exception of a few houses situate on the outskirts, all the dwelling houses are provided with W.C.'s and efficient drainage, the drains being intercepted from the sewers with intercepting traps. A number of houses have cesspools, most of these being recently erected.

During the year an additional sewer has been put in Birmingham Street, from near Bedcote Mill, to the Railway Bridge. This was done on account of the original sewer, which passes under the Council's Depot, being faulty. The installation of this sewer has remedied flooding at various premises in Birmingham Street.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

During the year 1932, the River Stour was cleaned out under the Bridge at the Borough boundary and Amblecote (Staffs.), the work being undertaken by the County Councils of Worcestershire and Staffordshire. The remains of an old dam at Messrs. Bradley's Ironworks were removed. These works have been effectual in minimising flooding.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

Most of the houses are provided with Water Closets, the exceptions being cottages situate in localities where there are no sewers. There are a number of slop W.C.'s but these are gradually being converted to W.C.'s with fresh water flushing apparatus. The Sanitary Inspector's Report gives details of conversions and additions.

### **Public Cleansing.**

The Scavenging is carried out by direct labour, and is dealt with by controlled tipping, being spread over small areas, covered and levelled. There are six tips in use, *viz.*, Corporation Depot, Birmingham Street; Wollaston Hall Estate; Hadcroft Brick Works; Rufford's Brick Works; Bromley Street, Lye. Tipping at Racecourse Lane, Pedmore was discontinued during 1936.

Ashpits are emptied as required, and the contents of movable ashbins collected weekly. The few privies are cleared as required, the contents being buried. Cesspools are emptied and the contents either tipped down sewers or spread over farm land.

Two motor freighters are now in use and have proved satisfactory. The other vehicles are horse drawn.

Trouble was again experienced at the Lye Tip owing to the prevalence of crickets.

During the year complaints were received with respect to effluvia from a "Fire-lighter" Works. I made several inspections of the premises and eventually made a report to the Nuisance Abatement Sub-Committee. Further details of this matter are in the Sanitary Inspectors' Report, including a copy of the Report I made.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector has furnished me with the following statement as required by article 27 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1935.

The Number and nature of inspections made during the year :—

Inspection of houses and premises	...	...	...	706
Inspections under Housing Regulations	...	...	...	175
Houses measured for Overcrowding Survey	...	...	...	2660
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	...	...	...	127
Visits <i>re</i> Tuberculosis	...	...	...	40
Re-Inspections and Re-Visits	...	...	...	3176
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	3306
Cowsheds	...	...	...	62
Workshops	...	...	...	37
Vans	...	...	...	18
Bakehouses	...	...	...	34
Offensive Trade Premises	...	...	...	15
Food Stores	...	...	...	34
Houses Let in Lodgings	...	...	...	12
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	3
Premises infested with Rats or Insects	...	...	...	25
Church	...	...	...	1
Picture Houses	...	...	...	1
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	33
Schools	...	...	...	6
Corporation Refuse Tips	...	...	...	48
Fair Grounds	...	...	...	2
Shops	...	...	...	14
Pig-killing on unlicensed premises	...	...	...	4
Pig-keeping	...	...	...	2
Dirty Houses	...	...	...	32
Petrol Stores	...	...	...	13
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	206
Preliminary Notices complied with	...	...	...	181
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	469
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	335

### Shops.

The operation of the Shops Acts is dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

### Smoke Abatement.

Byelaws were adopted in April, 1930, limiting the emission of black smoke to three minutes in the half-hour.



### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

Preliminary surveys were commenced in 1936, in connection with the alteration and modernization of the public Swimming Baths, a scheme for which is at present in course of preparation.

There are no privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public within the Borough.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

One Council House and 49 other houses were found to be infested with bugs. During the year 38 houses were treated, the treatment consisting of fumigation with sulphur and saltpetre and proprietary fumigants, followed by spraying with various insecticides. Hydrogen cyanide is not used.

The furniture of Occupants who were removing to Council Houses was in some instances sprayed and in other cases burned.

The work being done by the Local Authority.

### **Schools.**

The infants departments of two schools were closed during the year, in one instance on account of the incidence of Measles and Whooping Cough, and in the other instance on account of Mumps. No school was closed on account of notifiable disease.

It was also necessary for me to issue nine certificates to cover decreased attendances at schools owing to the prevalence of infectious diseases.

Notices are sent to schools giving particulars of scholars from houses where cases of notifiable infectious diseases have occurred, and requests made for the scholars to be excluded from school for a specified period.

The water supply generally at the schools is ample, all the schools being supplied direct from the water mains.

### **Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.**

*Burial Grounds.* There are six Burial Grounds in use in the district : Stourbridge Cemetery ; Lye Cemetery ; the Roman Catholic Cemetery ; and the Churchyards of Old Swinford, Wollaston, and Pedmore.

There are also "closed" graveyards at the Congregational Church, Presbyterian Church and Friends Meeting House.

Sunday funerals at the Stourbridge Cemetery are not allowed, except in cases receiving sanction of the Town Council, through me.

### **HOUSING.**

300 New houses were erected during the year, 218 of them by the Local Authority under the Housing Act, to re-house persons displaced by Slum Clearance.

Good progress has been made during the year in Slum Clearance. 27 Demolition Orders and 10 Closing Orders were made.

During the year representations were made in respect of eight areas consisting of 132 houses (of which 8 were dwelling houses and shops), 1 builder's yard, 2 lock-up shops, 1 workshop and 1 warehouse. 22 of the houses were included in a Compulsory Purchase Order.

The Confirming Orders in respect of the Compulsory Purchase Order and two of the Clearance Areas were received in August. In the Compulsory Purchase Order the following were excluded:—3 dwelling-houses, 3 shops and dwellings, 1 lock-up shop and the builder's yard; also a dwelling-house owned by the Town Council. A Demolition Order was subsequently made in respect of one of the excluded houses.

The Confirming Order in respect of the Love Lane, Lye, Clearance Area excluded four houses, a workshop and a warehouse. Demolition Orders were later made in respect of the four excluded houses and undertakings given for their repair.

All the other houses in the Clearance Areas were included in the Confirming Orders.

In September, representations were made in respect of 54 houses, three of which were shops and dwellings, the number of occupiers being 219. (At the time this report was being published the Confirming Orders were received, which excluded one only of the houses, this being an owner-occupied shop and dwelling). The total number of houses for demolition under these Orders was 118.

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

### **(a) Milk Supply.**

### **(b) Meat and other Foods.**

The Sanitary Inspector's Report deals with these matters.

This Borough is not an authority under the Food and Drugs Acts.

## **PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

### **Small Pox.**

No case was reported during the year. No cases have occurred in the Borough since 1931.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

The type of disease was again of a mild character. Sixty-two cases were reported during 1936, as compared with 123 during the previous year and 115 during 1934. The number of cases increased during the months of September, October and November. In these three months 35 cases occurred.

Removal to hospital took place in 46 instances, or 74.2 per cent. There was one death from Scarlet Fever, giving a case mortality of 1.61 per cent. In addition, one patient was removed from the Isolation Hospital to a Birmingham Hospital for operation for intestinal obstruction and died.

The disease was fairly evenly distributed throughout the whole of the Borough.

There were 43 cases in children of school age, but outbreaks were not marked in any particular school.

The cases occurred in 55 households. In two instances three cases occurred in one house, and in two instances two cases in one house. On two occasions return cases were notified within seven days of discharge of a patient from hospital. One case occurred at the Cottage Homes. Fifteen of the patients resided in Council Houses.



The bedroom accommodation at the houses where the cases occurred was :—1 bedroom, one case ; 2 bedrooms, 21 cases ; 3 bedrooms, 31 cases ; 4 bedrooms, 5 cases ; 5 bedrooms, 2 cases ; 6 bedrooms, one case.

### Diphtheria.

Thirty-three cases of Diphtheria were notified during 1936, as compared with 110 in the previous year, and 54 in 1934. Sporadic cases occurred throughout the year, the type of disease being only slightly less severe than during 1935. There were five deaths from the disease, giving a percentage case mortality of 15.15, the case mortality in 1935 being 16.3. One of the deaths was a child admitted to a General Hospital, outside the District, with a septic throat, subsequently found to be suffering from Diphtheria.

Sixteen of the cases were children of school age.

The total number of patients admitted to the Isolation Hospital was 30, or 90.9 per cent. In the three instances where the patients received domiciliary treatment there were proper facilities for isolation and nursing.

Two of the patients were return cases notified within seven days of the discharge of a patient from hospital. In two instances three cases, and in two instances two cases, occurred in one house. The mother of three of the patients was subsequently found to be a "carrier" and was removed to hospital. Three other "carriers" were also taken to hospital, one of them being a scholar of an Open Air School outside the district. One case occurred at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, the patient being a non-resident of the Borough. Subsequently the staff of the Home were swabbed, and those members giving positive swabs were temporarily suspended from duty.

At the request of the school masters concerned, some of the scholars at two schools were swabbed, with negative results.

Twelve cases occurred in houses with two bedrooms, fifteen in houses with three bedrooms, and five in houses with four bedrooms. Six of the patients resided in Council Houses.

Although there were less than one-third the number of cases notified as in the previous year, yet the case mortality was almost stationary. The cases vary very much in severity. Some appear to be almost hopeless from the onset ; the only hope for severe cases is previous immunisation, and I wish again to emphasise the necessity for taking advantage of this procedure. All the children in the Council Schools of the Borough have been given the opportunity to be immunised, but only a small number have taken advantage of the offer. In September, the Public Health Committee gave me permission to write to all parents in the Borough whose children had attained the age of one year, urging upon them the necessity for immunisation, as I believe that this is the only way to stamp out the disease and that every child should be immunised as soon as he or she reaches the age of one year.

### **Puerperal Fever.**

Three cases of Puerperal Fever were notified during 1936, as compared with two in the previous year. Two of the cases occurred at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, the patients being non-residents of the Borough. The other patient was removed to the General Hospital, Birmingham, and recovered. One patient died of Puerperal Fever; this is the case mentioned under the next heading of Puerperal Pyrexia.

### **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

Fourteen cases were notified during the year, as compared with 15 in 1935.

Eleven of the cases occurred at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, five of them being non-residents of the Borough. One woman, who resided in Stourbridge, died.

A resident of the Borough, who was admitted to the General Hospital, Birmingham, was reported to be suffering from this condition, but died of Puerperal Fever.

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

Five cases were reported during the year. Three occurred at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, the mothers being non-residents of the Borough.

Each child recovered without any impairment of vision.

### **Acute Rheumatism.**

A number of cases of this disease have been reported by the School Authorities. Some have cardiac complications and others Chorea. With the help of neighbouring Local Authorities, the local Education Committee is endeavouring to institute a Special School for Rheumatic Children.

### **Polio-Myelitis.**

During the late Summer and Autumn, there were a few cases of Polio-Myelitis occurring in the district. Three were notified in the Borough. The cases were of a mild type. Local Medical Practitioners were notified that cases were occurring, so that they could be on the look out for sporadic cases.

The first case was notified in August, and was a girl aged 15 years. The patient and her mother had both been ill, suffering from a febrile complaint similar to Influenza. At the end of the pyrexia the girl developed paralysis in both legs. It was not possible to determine where the girl had become infected. She is still in hospital (June, 1937).

The second case occurred in September, and was a boy aged 4 years. In this case one arm was affected, and he is still under treatment. This boy had been away at Stroud a short time before his illness and there had been a case about a mile away from where he stayed. The third case occurred in October, and was a boy aged 5 years. The case was mild and he soon recovered. He had had Measles just prior to this illness.



It is interesting to note that although there was no contact between these three cases, yet they all lived close to each other. Two being in Council Houses.

### General.

The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases has on the whole not been nearly as great as in 1935 ; 148 cases were reported in 1936 as against 218 in 1935. Diphtheria is the disease which has caused the most concern, as some of the cases are very severe. Early use of anti-toxin is urged even in doubtful cases, and is provided free to Medical Practitioners by the Borough Council. Doubtful throats and nasal passages are swabbed as a routine. Contacts in the house are all swabbed and contacts at school are also swabbed if there are more than three cases in a class. Specimens are examined by the County Bacteriologist. Immunisation against Diphtheria has been practised as in previous years.

Anti-scarletinal serum is not provided free, but it is used in severe cases. In the Isolation Hospital, it is used in most cases ; undoubtedly it is useful in preventing or alleviating complications and in shortening the period in hospital. Prontosil is now being used in many Streptococcal conditions and appears to be replacing anti-scarlatinal serum. It appears to be very efficacious.

Cases of Streptococcal Tonsillitis have been frequent and undoubtedly, mild cases spread the infection, causing Scarlet Fever in one patient and perhaps Puerperal Fever in another.

Sputum from many suspected chest cases is examined for Tubercle Bacilli.

Most cases of Diphtheria are removed to hospital. The removal of Scarlet Fever cases depends on whether efficient isolation and proper nursing can be carried out at home ; in many cases it is difficult—the patients are then removed.

Fumigation of rooms which have been occupied by patients suffering from infectious disease is carried out upon request, and where the patient has been treated at home. Bed clothing is always disinfected.

All Scarlet Fever patients admitted to hospital are immunised against Diphtheria before discharge.

The notification of pneumonia is not in all respects satisfactory ; although it is clear which types of the disease should be reported, it is not always easy to diagnose them clinically and I believe that some cases are reported which need not be, and vice versa, cases which need not be reported, sometimes are. Further, it is difficult to know how to utilise the information when it is received, beyond seeing that adequate nursing provision is made. The services of the local Nursing Association are used in some of these cases and are much appreciated.

During the year 1936, 972 children were immunised.

Of the children who suffered from the disease, three had been immunised ; complete recoveries took place in each case.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

The following tables give details of the Notification of Infectious Diseases during the year.

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Small Pox	... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	... ..	1	3	3	4	3	3	1	6	7	16	12	3	62
Diphtheria	... ..	8	1	4	4	2	3	1	2	1	4	3	—	33
Enteric Fever	... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	... ..	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	... ..	2	—	3	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	14
Pneumonia	... ..	4	2	—	2	2	2	—	1	—	2	1	3	19
Erysipelas	... ..	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	5
Acute Polio Myelitis	... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3
TOTALS	... ..	15	10	13	13	10	11	6	12	10	25	16	7	148

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS,) DURING THE YEAR 1936.

Disease.	Ages.												Total No. of Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 3 years.	3 to 4 years.	4 to 5 years.	5 to 10 years.	10 to 15 years.	15 to 20 years.	20 to 35 years.	35 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years.	65 and upwards.			
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1	2	4	25	20	4	4	1	—	—	62	46	1
Diphtheria	—	1	2	1	3	9	5	5	4	2	1	—	33	30	5
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	4	—	—	14	2	—
Pneumonia	3	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	4	3	3	3	19	—	19
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	3	9	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Acute Polio Myelitis	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	2	—
Totals	...	8	2	4	3	8	25	11	26	11	7	6	148	82	25



**Table Showing Incidence of Infectious Diseases in Different Parts of the Borough.**

Disease.	Stourbridge.	Lye and Wollescote.	Pedmore
Scarlet Fever ... ..	47	12	3
Diphtheria ... ..	22	10	1
Puerperal Fever ... ..	3	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	13	1	—
Pneumonia ... ..	13	5	1
Erysipelas ... ..	4	5	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	5	—	—
Acute Polio Myelitis ... ..	3	—	—
Totals ... ..	110	33	5

### **Cancer.**

There were 47 deaths from Cancer, 27 being males and 20 females. In the males, the growth occurred in the alimentary canal in 16 cases, of these it was in the stomach in 6 cases. The average age in these cases was 67 years. One of the male cases was a child one year and eleven months old ; in this case the growth was in the kidney. In the females, the alimentary canal was affected in 10 cases, the stomach in 3 cases ; the average age at death was 66 years. The breast was the site of election in 3 cases and the uterus in one case. It is interesting to note that in proportion the latter two sites were less often affected than is usual and the alimentary canal more often affected. There did not appear to be any relation between the organs affected and the occupation.

Treatment by radium and deep X-rays is provided for suitable cases at some of the Birmingham Hospitals.

### **Prevention of Blindness.**

This Borough has not applied for power under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925. There is a Voluntary Blind Institution in the Borough providing work for afflicted persons, but there is no Institution for treatment.

## TUBERCULOSIS, 1936.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—
15	...	...	4	4	1	3	4	3	2	—
25	...	...	3	3	1	—	6	4	—	—
35	...	...	6	3	—	—	2	3	—	—
45	...	...	2	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
55	...	...	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	19	12	6	3	18	11	3	—

The Death Rate for Respiratory Tuberculosis was .83 per 1000 of population as against .55 in 1935, and the Death Rate for Other Tuberculous diseases was .086 against nil in 1935.

There was one non-notified Tuberculosis Death. The rate of non-notified Tuberculous deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths was 1 to 32.

Notification of Tuberculosis in the Borough is efficient. There was no occasion for the taking of any action or proceedings for refusal to notify.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the Borough.

## SUMMARY OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER AT END OF 1936.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	Males.	Females	Males.	Females
No. of cases on Register, 1st January, 1936 ...	79	66	23	20
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year under the Regulations ...	18	10	5	3
No. of cases first heard of otherwise than by primary notification ...	1	2	1	—
TOTALS ...	98	78	29	23
No. of cases removed from Register during the year ...	25	15	7	2
No. of cases remaining on Register at the end of the year ...	73	63	22	21

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEOFFREY DUDLEY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

## 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	881
(b) Number of inspections made for the purposes	...	1064
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	... ..	175
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	302
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	129
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	126

## 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	... ..	33
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## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

## (A) Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	26
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	... ..	13
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	2

## (B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	39
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :—		
(a) By owners	... ..	28
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	—



## (c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	34
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	23

## (d) Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	13
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	1

## 4.—Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding :

(A) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	220
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	269
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	1489
(B) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	—
(C) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	20
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	147

# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, IN CONNECTION WITH FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

## 1.—INSPECTION.

### INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	9	—	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ... ..	60	—	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises) ... ..	2	—	—
Total ...	71	—	—

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosec- utions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ... ..	2	2	—	—
Want of ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ... ..	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :—				
Insufficient ... ..	3	3	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ... ..	7	6	—	—
Not separate for sexes ... ..	1	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-houses. (S.101) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences ... ..	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total ... ..	14	12	—	—

\* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

# THE ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

# SANITARY INSPECTOR

### FOR THE YEAR 1936

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TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
STOURBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you a Report of the work done in my Department during the year 1936, this being my Thirty-sixth Annual Report.

### COMPLAINTS.

268 complaints were received, as compared with 274 in the previous year.

### INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

10,586 inspections and re-inspections were made, as compared with 8,094 during the previous year, and were as follows:—

General Inspections of houses and premises, 706 ; Inspections under Housing Regulations, 175 ; Re-inspections, 3,176 ; Houses Measured for Overcrowding Survey, 2,660 ; Infectious Diseases, 127 ; Tuberculosis, 40 ; Slaughterhouses, 3,306 ; Dairies and Cowsheds, 62 ; Workshops, 37 ; Bakehouses, 34 ; Vans, 18 ; Fair Grounds, 2 ; Offensive Trade Premises, 15 ; Food Stores, 34 ; Houses let in Lodgings, 12 ; Premises infested with Rats and Insects, 25 ; Pig-Killing on Unlicensed Premises, 4 ; Pig Keeping, 2 ; Cinemas, 1 ; Smoke Nuisances, 33 ; Common Lodging Houses, 3 ; Schools, 6 ; Dirty Houses, 32 ; Corporation Refuse Tips, 48 ; Petroleum, 13 ; Shops, 14 ; Church, 1.

Sanitary defects, nuisances and contraventions of your Byelaws numbered 7184. The number of defects remaining unattended to at the end of 1935 was 5,791, making a total of 12,975. During the year 3310 defects were remedied, leaving 9,665 insanitary conditions unabated at the end of the year.

### NOTICES.

206 Preliminary Intimation Notices were sent during the year. Where the Notices apply to repairs to property, details of the defects and suggestions for the repairs are sent in the form of letters.



	<i>No. of Notices</i>		<i>No. of Houses or Premises affected.</i>	
General Defects of Houses ...	...	92	...	161
Cleansing Rooms after Tuberculosis ...	...	10	...	10
Sanitary Conveniences ...	...	13	...	29
Drain Defects ...	...	39	...	58
Want of House Refuse Receptacles ...	...	7	...	26
Defective Ashpits ...	...	5	...	8
Defective Rain Water Spouting ...	...	7	...	11
Waste of Water ...	...	1	...	1
Contraventions Milk and Dairies Orders ...	...	5	...	5
Bakehouses, Limewashing ...	...	1	...	1
Workshop, Insanitary ...	...	1	...	1
Offensive Trade Premises, Nuisance ...	...	1	...	1
Meat Regulations, Contravention ...	...	1	...	1
Slaughtering on Unlicensed Premises ...	...	1	...	1
Pig Keeping, Nuisance ...	...	1	...	1
Demolition Orders not complied with ...	...	5	...	8
Defective Wash-houses ...	...	4	...	9
Flooding of Yards ...	...	1	...	2
Insanitary Urinal ...	...	1	...	1
Smoke Nuisance ...	...	2	...	2
Dangerous Walls ...	...	2	...	2
Stench from Gas Producer Plant ...	...	1	...	1
Watercourse obstructed ...	...	1	...	1
Stable not drained ...	...	1	...	1
Insect Infestation ...	...	1	...	1
School, Mice Infestation ...	...	1	...	1
Dirty House ...	...	1	...	1
		<hr/> 206 <hr/>		<hr/> 345 <hr/>

In addition to these notices, 37 matters were referred to the Borough Surveyor and 5 to the Water Board.

At the end of 1935, work was in progress in respect of 15 Notices, and 55 Notices were outstanding, making a total of 276 Notices, with those sent during 1936. At the end of the year, 184 had been complied with, work in respect of 56 was in progress and 36 of the Notices were outstanding.

The Statutory Notices served were :—

<i>Kind of Notice.</i>	<i>No. of Notices.</i>	<i>No. of Houses or Premises affected.</i>
HOUSING ACT, 1925 :—		
Notice before entry ...	25	25

<i>Kind of Notice.</i>	<i>No. of Notices.</i>	<i>No. of Houses or Premises affected</i>
HOUSING ACT, 1930 :—		
Notice of Clearance Order ... ..	59	112
To appear before Council ... ..	73	41
Demolition Orders ... ..	50	31
Closing Orders ... ..	30	13
Notice to Repair ... ..	26	26
Notice of Intention to do work in default ... ..	3	5
Demand for payment of Expenses ... ..	2	2
Demolition Order on Breach of Undertaking ... ..	4	3
Notice of Compulsory Purchase Order ... ..	17	21
Requisition for Information ... ..	15	53
Notice to occupier to Quit ... ..	109	109
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875 :—		
Provision of Ashbins ... ..	4	4
Accumulations of Refuse ... ..	2	2
Abatement of Nuisances ... ..	33	39
PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1907 :—		
Provision of Closet Accommodation ... ..	4	4
Provision of Sink and Drain ... ..	4	4
INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION ACT, 1890 :—		
For Disinfection ... ..	6	6
RENTS RESTRICTIONS, ETC., ACT :		
Certificate ... ..	1	1
NUISANCES BYELAWS ... ..		
1	1	1
TOWNS IMPROVEMENT CLAUSES ACT, 1847 :		
Provision of Rain Water Spouting... ..	1	1
	<hr/> 469	<hr/> 503

Forty-eight Notices were brought forward from the previous year.

At the end of the year 381 Notices had been complied with, the work in respect of 102 was in progress and 34 Notices were outstanding.

### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The Trades carried on are :—

Fish frying ... ..	30
Tripe Boiling ... ..	9
Hide and Skin Dealer ... ..	1
Leather Dresser ... ..	1

Two Fish Friers gave up business during the year, one business was transferred to other premises. Permission was given for alteration of the position of the cooking apparatus at one premises. Two fish-frying licences were renewed for a period of twelve months.

**LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.**

<i>Offence.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
Serving Customer after Closing Hour. Shops Act.	Fined £3.
For not complying with Notice to abate a Nuisance.	Case adjourned for work to be done.
For not complying with Notice to provide a sink.	Work done. Case withdrawn on payment of costs.

**BAKEHOUSES.**

At the end of 1935 there were 26 Bakehouses in occupation, 5 of which were factories. During the year 1936, five of the premises ceased being used, thus leaving 21, including 5 factories, on the Register. Fourteen are in Stourbridge and 7 in Lye.

A new Bakehouse was erected at one place and the old building used as a warehouse.

A nuisance arising from keeping of dogs in a yard by a bakehouse was abated. Several verbal notices respecting lime-washing were given.

**FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.**

There were 222 Workshops on the Register at the end of the year, as follows :—

Baking ... ..	21	Frost Cog Making ...	6
Basket Making ...	1	Horse Shoeing ...	1
Boot Repairing ...	26	Jewellery and Watch	
Boat Building ...	1	Repairing ...	8
Brewing ... ..	4	Joinery ... ..	13
Bucket Handle Making	1	Laundry ... ..	2
Cabinet Making and		Malting ... ..	2
Upholstering ...	8	Millinery ... ..	10
Carriage Building and		Motor Repairs ...	14
Wheelwrights ...	5	Plumbing, etc. ...	6
Cycle Repairs ...	4	Picture Framing ...	2
Chamois Leather		Reflector Making ...	1
Dressing ... ..	2	Saddlery ... ..	3
Dressmaking ...	25	Sheet Metal Cutting ...	8
Electrical Engineering		Smithy (General) ...	3
and Wireless ...	6	Stone Masonry ...	2
Fire-lighter Making ...	1	Tailoring ... ..	23
Food Preparing ...	5	Tin and Whitesmithy	2

Eleven complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories relating to insufficiency of or defects in connection with sanitary conveniences. During the year five additional water closets were erected and at the end of the year four were in course of erection. Other defects were also attended to. It was not necessary to take formal action in respect of any of the matters.



An unusual matter came up during the year, in relation to effluvia from a "fire-lighter" works. At these works bundled faggots were dipped in a mixture formed by heating naphthaline and creosote. The odour given off was the cause of complaints from some residents in the neighbourhood. In October the Medical Officer of Health and I reported on the matter to the Nuisance Abatement Sub-Committee. The Report of the Medical Officer of Health, dated 28th October, was as follows :—

### FIRELIGHTER WORKS, MAMBLE ROAD, STOURBRIDGE.

#### REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

When I visited the factory the wind was blowing in the direction of Bowling Green Road, and the effluvia from the works was moderately pungent. The odour was distinctly of Cresol nature and similar to the odour from vapourising material used in various forms for treatment of respiratory affections.

The effluvia was, in my opinion, not sufficiently strong to cause irritation of mucous membranes, and therefore could not be assumed to be in any way injurious to health.

The general structures at the premises are not satisfactory, and the heating arrangements of the large packing shed appear to be unsafe.

The apparatus and covering of the dipping furnace might be improved to minimise the odour emanating from it.

GEOFFREY DUDLEY.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

I reported on 23rd October as follows :—

### FIRELIGHTER WORKS, MAMBLE ROAD, STOURBRIDGE.

#### REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises consist of *Garage* near roadway, *Workplace* where the faggots are bundled and packed. Four girls employed. This is about 10 yards from motor shed. *Dipping* place at far end of premises and about 55 yards from Mamble Road, and about 45 yards from houses in King Street, Wollaston.

Houses in Mamble Road are farther away.

Naphthalene and Creosote used for treating the bundled faggots. Heated in washing copper in dipping place. The shed consists of corrugated iron sheets, openings at front and sides. Heat is generated by coal fires, the flue is not high enough and suggestion made on the 22nd October that it should be taken higher. Sublimated flakes of Naphthalene floated about the Dipping Shed, and suggestion made that the copper should be covered to prevent escape of the flakes, partly for economic reasons and partly to prevent complaints. Flakes of this description are sold as insecticide.

Sanitary Convenience, at side of Dipping Shed consists of large bucket filled with disinfectant.

There is no sink or drain.

Water tap in yard.

Owner proposes to have drain put in to connect up gully from a sink, also from W.C. or alternatively an "Elsan" Chemical Closet to be put instead of W.C.

Paving of workplace, dipping place and sanitary convenience unsatisfactory.

When the chimney from furnace of boiler is raised, and the copper properly enclosed there should be no cause for complaint if the firing is properly controlled.

The odour from dipping material is not offensive and could not be smelt a short distance away. A resident in the neighbourhood who suffers from bronchitis said he spent as much time as possible in the dipping shed, as he found the fumes had a beneficial effect.

ARTHUR KENT,  
*Sanitary Inspector.*

The premises were inspected by the Nuisance Abatement Sub-Committee on 3rd November. This Committee "decided that apart from the untidiness of the corrugated iron erections, general untidiness of yard, unsatisfactory paving of workplaces, and of the sanitary conveniences, there was no call for complaint. The shed for dipping the faggots might be improved, although this is a considerable distance from houses and roadway, and the chimney stack of boiler in dipping place should be made higher."

Several alterations were made to the dipping place, including raising of chimney stack.

### OUTWORKERS.

Twenty-five lists were received, containing the names of 52 outworkers, 25 of whom resided outside the Borough.

### COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are now 2 Common Lodging Houses.

The following are the returns of the number of lodgers. (The figures represent the number of times the beds were occupied).

Adult Lodgers.		Lodgers above 10 and under 21.		Lodgers under 10 years of age.		Total.
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
5614	327	—	—	—	—	5941

The total is 330 lower than that for the previous year.



## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 24 Slaughterhouses, 14 being subject to annual licence. Seven of them, in respect of which there are nine licences, are subject to an undertaking that claims for compensation will not be made if the renewal of the licence is refused should the Town Council erect a Public Abattoir. Three slaughterhouses ceased being used during the year. The occupation of an old licensed one was changed and a licence issued for one year.

The total number of visits made during the year was 3,306.

Notices of Slaughter received and inspections, were :—

	<i>Oxen.</i>		<i>Pigs.</i>		<i>Sheep.</i>		<i>Calves.</i>
In Licensed Slaughterhouses	1541	...	3815	...	8965	...	91
On Premises not Licensed	—	...	5	...	—	...	—
Inspected	1501	...	3673	...	6814	...	85
Percentage of Slaughtered Animals Inspected	97.4	...	96.2	...	76.0	...	93.4

The following were condemned and voluntarily surrendered :—

Tuberculosis	...	6 oxen and offals ; 1 ox forequarter, flank and Brisket ; 36 ox heads ; 34 ox lungs ; 5 ox livers ; 1 ox intestines ; 1 ox stomach ; 3 pig carcase and offals ; 187 pigs' heads ; 41 pigs' frys ; 18 pigs' mesenteries ; 1 pig's spleens ; 3 pigs' intestines.
Distoma Hepaticum	...	9 ox livers ; 45 sheep livers.
Echinococci	...	5 ox livers ; 9 ox lungs.
Emaciation	...	4 pig carcasses and offals.
Moribund Condition	...	1 pig carcase and offals.
Septicaemia	...	1 pig carcase and offals.
Jaundice	...	1 sheep carcase and offals.
Inefficient Bleeding	...	1 sheep carcase and offals.
Pneumonia	...	2 pig carcasses and offals ; 7 pigs' lungs ; 2 pigs' frys.
Blood Extravasations	...	2 hind quarters of beef ; 4 legs of pork.
Abscesses	...	14 ox livers ; 2 ox lungs ; 2 forequarters of mutton.
Cirrhosis	...	12 ox livers ; 14 pigs' livers.
Inflammation	...	4 pig's frys ; 2 pigs' intestines.
Strongylosis	...	4 sheep livers.
Fatty Infiltration	...	1 ox liver.
Melanosis	...	1 ox liver.
Pericarditis	...	1 ox heart.

Total weight of meat condemned approximately 4 tons. 14 cwt.

Animals affected with Tuberculosis were :—oxen, 59, or 3.93 per cent. ; pigs, 212, or 5.63 per cent.

Fifty-four licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act, were in force during 1936, three of them being new licences granted during the year.



## MILK SUPPLY.

The Register contained 138 names as follows :—

Producers	...	...	...	...	...	17
Retailers in the Borough	...	...	...	...	...	48
Retailers from outside the Borough	...	...	...	...	...	25
Retailers of Sterilized Milk	...	...	...	...	...	48

One retailer in the Borough gave up business and 9 new retailers were registered. One retailer from outside the Borough ceased business and one other retailer was registered. There were 5 persons registered to retail sterilized milk.

In addition there are eight registered as wholesale Dealers and four as wholesale Dealers of Sterilized Milk.

Licences held in the Borough under the Milk (Special Designations) Order :—

				<i>Residing Inside.</i>	<i>Residing Outside.</i>	
Pasteurised—Producer	...	...	...	1	...	—
„ Retailer	...	...	...	—	...	3
Accredited Bottlers	...	...	...	2	...	—
„ Retailers	...	...	...	2	...	2
Tuberculin Tested Bottlers	...	...	...	1	...	—
„ Retailers	...	...	...	3	...	2

The licence to one Accredited Bottler is issued by the County Council as he is a producer.

62 visits were made and a number of dirt tests made at the cowsheds.

The cowsheds at three farms were extensively repaired, including new concrete floors, improved lighting and ventilation. The milk cooler at one farm was placed inside a suitable building instead of being exposed in the open.

The County Medical Officer sent results of ten examinations of the milk supplied to school children, in those cases where the samples contained high counts of bacteria or there was B. Coli present. Five related to Pasteurised milk, three of which contained B. Coli. The other five were (Grade “A” or) Accredited, one of which contained B. Coli.

49 Samples were submitted for examination during the year, 17 being routine samples of (Grade “A” or) Accredited, taken at the request of the County Medical Officer. 20 were Pasteurised, 4 Certified, 4 Ordinary, 1 Grade “A” and 2 Tuberculin Tested.

The results of examinations of milk taken from the following points of a Pasteurising plant were :—

(Those numbered were samples taken the same day).

	<i>Reception Tank.</i>	<i>Retarder.</i>	<i>Cooler.</i>	<i>Bottling Point.</i>
(1)	Count 2240 No. B Coli.	Count 310. No B Coli.	—	Count 510. No B. Coli.
(2)	Count 20240. B. Coli 1/10th c.c. None 1/100th.	Count 9440. No B Coli.	Count 4080. No B Coli.	—
(3)	Count 20080. B. Coli 1/10th c.c.	Count 1890. No. B. Coli.		
(4)	Count 31840 B.Coli 1/100th c.c.	Count 920. No B. Coli.		
(5)	—	Count 680. No B. Coli.	Count 760 No B. Coli.	Count 820. No B. Coli.

Examinations of the remaining 7 samples of Pasteurised Milk, which were in bottles and obtained from various retailers, were reported as follows :—

Count 4640	...	No B Coli.
Count 9200	...	B. Coli 1/10th c.c. (Grade A).
Count 20080	...	B. Coli 1/10th c.c. (Grade A)
Count 16800	...	B. Coli 1/10th c.c.
Count 1660	...	No B. Coli.
Count 8160	...	B. Coli 1/100th c.c. (Grade A).
Count 15040	...	B. Coli 1/100th c.c. (Grade A).

Two samples were taken on account of persons suffering from Scarlet Fever having milk supplies from one retailer. Streptocci was not present in either sample.

### HOUSING.

The number of houses inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations were 175, of which 94 were in Stourbridge and 81 in Lye.

Twelve had more than two persons per room, or 6.85 per cent. of the houses inspected. Three had two rooms and five occupiers. Two houses had three rooms with seven occupiers, for houses had three rooms with eight occupiers and one house had three rooms with 12 occupiers. Two had four rooms with 9 and 10 occupiers respectively.

24 Houses were reported for demolition under Section 19, Housing Act, 1930. Three for breach of Undertaking to repair and 11 separate tenements for Closing Orders under Section 20, Housing Act, 1930.

24 Demolition Orders, 10 Closing Orders and 3 Demolition Orders for breaches of Undertakings were made during the year, as follows :—

#### *Demolition Orders :*

Stourbridge	...	No. 12, Birmingham Street ; No. 6, Brook Street ; No. 41, Hungary Hill.
Lye	...	Nos. 4 and 5, Crabbe Street ; No. 2, Connops Lane ; Nos. 55, 56, 57 and 58, Cross Walks Road ; Nos. 26 and 27, Careless Green, ; Nos. 27 and 28, Engine Lane ; Nos. 109 and 110, High Street ; Nos. 46 and 47, Hayes Lane ; Nos. 78, 79 and 100, Pedmore Road ; Nos. 20 and 39, Spring Street ; No. 9, Talbot Street. (The Orders for Nos. 78 and 79, Pedmore Road, were made by request of the Owner after the houses had been excluded from a Clearance Order).



*Breaches of Undertakings :*

Lye ... No. 35, Belmont Road, Nos. 102, 102b, Stourbridge Road.

*Closing Orders :*

Stourbridge ... No. 71, Birmingham Street, Nos. 2 and 4, Brook Road, Nos. 104 and 106, Stambermill.

Lye ... Nos. 60b and 61b, Brook Street ; No. 17b, Church Street ; No. 30/31, Green Lane ; No. 33, Talbot Street.

Undertakings not to use houses for human habitation were accepted in respect of the following :—

Stourbridge ... 12 and 14, Vicarage Road, Wollaston.

Lye ... 14b, Chapel Street.

and Undertakings to repair and make fit were accepted in respect of 55, 56, 57 and 58, Cross Walks Road, Lye, and 33 and 34, Talbot Street, Lye and early in 1937 an Undertaking to repair Nos. 13, 14, 15 and 16, Love Lane, Lye, which had been excluded from a Clearance Area was accepted, after being adjourned in December, 1936.

The Undertakings to repair given in respect of Nos. 121, 122 and 123, Stourbridge Road, and 33 and 34, Talbot Street, were extended.

A Closing Order was made with respect to a part of the building No. 33, and the work of alterations was then done.

The Undertakings for Nos. 55, 56, 57 and 58, Cross Walks Road, was withdrawn and Demolition Orders made.

Appeals were made against the Demolition Orders on Nos. 4 and 5, Crabbe Street, and were withdrawn on the understanding that No. 4 would be demolished and No. 5 used as a warehouse.

**Clearance Orders** were made in respect of the following :—

*Stourbridge.*

Corser Street : 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 16 and 18.

Envile Street : 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135 and 137.

Heath Lane : 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22.

Mount Street : 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17.

Summer Street : 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51.

Underwoods Buildings, Union Street : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

*Lye.*

Connops Lane : 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10.

High Street : 154, 155 and Warehouse next 155.

Love Lane : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, workshop in yard at 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43.

Union Street : 34, 35 and 36.



**Compulsory Purchase Orders** were made in respect of the following :—

Angel Street : 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 1, 2, 3, Court No. 9, 19, 21, and 1 Court No. 10.

Birmingham Street : 6, 8, 10 and 12.

Coventry Street : 30, 32, 34 and 36. Builder's Yard next 36.

**Confirmation Orders** relating to the following houses included in Clearance Orders and Compulsory Purchase Orders were received and the Clearance Orders became operative during the year.

<i>Clearance Orders.</i>	<i>No. of houses included in Confirmation Orders.</i>	<i>No. of houses excluded.</i>
Love Lane Area (including Connops Lane, High Street and Love Lane)	46	4 also workshop (5a) Love Lane and warehouse next 155, High Street.
Mount Street ... ..	6	
<i>Compulsory Purchase Order.</i>		
Angel Street area (including Angel Street, Birmingham Street and Coventry Street).	13	8 Land next No 36, Coventry Street.

One of the excluded houses was owned by the Corporation and a Demolition Order was made in respect of another house.

The Corser Street, Enville Street, Heath Lane, Summer Street, Underwoods' Buildings, Union Street, Stourbridge, and Union Street, Lye, Clearance Areas were subject to an Inquiry held on 23rd February, 1937.

In September particulars of defects, etc., relating to 54 houses included in five Clearance Areas were supplied and accepted in connection with the Official Representations.

Two houses were repaired under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1930, by order of the Council under my supervision and according to my plan and specification, viz. : Nos. 42 and 43, Albert Street, Lye. The contract price being £288 10s. od. and extras £3 18s. 9d. The expenses were subsequently (in 1937) declared to be private improvement expenses and the rents of the houses collected by the Council.

13 Houses were repaired by Owners after Notices under Section 17, Housing Act, 1930, and 33 were repaired after informal Notices. The repairs were extensive, in many cases the houses being completely re-conditioned. At 22 of them a scullery with W.C. and coal-place was erected in place of common wash-houses and W.C.'s. In most of these cases plans and specifications were supplied from my department.

Plans and specifications were supplied to Owners for repairs and improvements at 50 houses. Some of the houses were repaired during the year and at others the work was proceeding at the end of the year.

The Closing Order made in respect of a separate tenement was determined after the premises had been repaired.

In April a report was made with respect to the Slum Clearance Programme of 1933. The original number of houses to be dealt with was 394, but it was found that 142 had been included in Clearance Orders or Demolition Orders which were not mentioned in the original programme. The number of houses was then increased from 394 to 740 as it was found that 204 additional houses were in such a condition as to merit dealing with them for demolition.

The result of the Overcrowding Survey was presented to the Council in April as follows :—

<i>Whole Borough.</i>		<i>Uncrowded.</i>	<i>Overcrowded.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Ordinary Houses	...	7512	152	7664
Council Houses	...	1711	68	1779
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		9223	220	9443
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The percentages of overcrowding being :—

Total Houses	...	...	...	2.32
Ordinary Houses	...	...	...	1.98
Council Houses	...	...	...	3.82

During the year 2660 houses were measured for particulars Form "B."

Twenty houses were demolished after Demolition Orders. Three ceased to be separate houses through conversion of back-to-back houses. Twenty-seven were demolished on account of Clearance Orders.

### DISINFECTION.

Rooms at 101 houses were fumigated after infectious disease, and rooms at 43 houses for other reasons, principally after a death had occurred. The bedding is disinfected at the Isolation Hospital in cases of infectious disease, and approximately 2,800 articles were so treated. At 13 houses, the rooms which had been occupied by tuberculous patients were thoroughly disinfected, including, in most instances, stripping of wall paper. Portions of the Maternity Home were fumigated on seven occasions.

### RAG FLOCK ACT.

In August information was received of Rag Flock being sold in another district which was alleged to come from a factory in the Borough. Visits were made and seven samples of the flock taken. The results of analyses were as follows :—Chlorine per 100,000 : 11, 21, 29, 29, 33, 48, 88. The flock was made from jute, cotton, wool waste, carpet clippings and other material principally from carpet manufactories.



## OTHER MATTERS.

In May several complaints were received about offensive effluvia from street gullies in a part of the district. Upon investigation it was found that the cause was owing to the discharge of effluent from a settling and filtration tank used in connection with a plant used for producing gas from wood. Attempts were made to improve the effluent but as these did not produce satisfactory results arrangements were made for the effluent to be discharged into the foul water sewer, and not into the storm water sewer. This was done in August. Subsequently a complaint was received of stench from a sewer manhole. A solid cover was put on the manhole and there were no more complaints.

Stench from a street gully in Lye was the cause of numerous complaints. After testing the house drains in the vicinity with large quantities of water it was assumed that the drain or sewer under the roadway was faulty, and that drainage was finding its way into the storm water sewer. The matter was reported to the Public Health Committee and instructions were given to the Borough Surveyor to have the ground opened. This was done early in 1937, when it was found that the drain connection to the sewer was not satisfactory. A new connection to the sewer was made and the nuisance ceased.

## ASHPITS.

Eight ashpits were removed, in connection with 12 houses, and ashbins provided. Ash bins were provided at 31 other houses and 6 were renewed.

## SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Sixteen additional water closets were provided. At 13 houses the positions of W.C.'s were altered and new W.C.'s erected, with access direct from the house, and at 10 other houses the W.C.'s were re-erected nearer the houses. Seven were re-built. Repairs were done at 149 W.C.'s including 44 new basins.

Six slop W.C.'s were removed and W.C.'s with fresh water flushing apparatus substituted.

Two privies were converted.

## VERMIN.

Thirty-eight houses were fumigated and sprayed on account of bug infestation. The infested houses which were to be demolished were treated, the furniture was also sprayed and in some cases destroyed by burning. Insecticide in the form of liquid or powder was supplied to occupiers of infested houses: Bugs 13, Crickets 8, Ants 7, Beetles 4, Fleas 1, Silver Fish 3. Two houses were fumigated and sprayed on account of fleas.

Rat poison was supplied to the occupiers of 13 premises, and 20 premises were inspected.

## RENT RESTRICTION ACTS.

One Certificate was issued.



### HOUSE REFUSE TIPS.

Crickets were again found at the Lye tip, the first appearance being in June, and in six months 265 gallons of creosote were used. The tip had been liberally treated with creosote during the previous year, and as crickets re-appeared in places which had been thoroughly saturated, this method was abandoned, and acid waste from galvanizing works used. This was found to be effectual as well as cheap, as the acid waste was generously given by manufacturers. The acid was poured on the places where crickets were seen, and frequent observations showed that no more insects appeared at these sites.

## GENERAL SUMMARY OF OTHER SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT AND INSANITARY CONDITIONS REMEDIED.

### Dwelling Houses.

Baking Ovens removed ...	4	Stairs, repaired ...	88
Baths, additional, provided...	2	Stairs, treads renewed ...	104
Bedrooms, floors repaired ...	27	Stairs, handrails provided ...	40
Bedrooms, new floors ...	33	Stairs, renewed entirely ...	15
Bedrooms, angle filleting provided ...	51	Steps, renewed or repaired ...	8
Bedrooms, new skirting board- ing ...	42	Through ventilation provided	6
Bedrooms, skirting boarding renewed ...	8	Ventilating air bricks put in Bedrooms ...	8
Bedrooms, additional pro- vided ...	2	Wash-houses, thoroughly re- paired ...	19
Bedrooms, reconditioned and enlarged ...	2	Wash-houses, washing boilers provided ...	10
Cleansed, white washed and redecorated (Rooms) ...	261	Wash-houses, washing boil- ers repaired ...	12
Chimneys (repaired) ...	31	Wash-houses, supplied with Water Taps ...	4
Chair Rails and Picture Rails provided ...	36	Wash-houses taken down ...	10
Ceilings, plaster renewed or repaired ...	82	Wash-houses, floors renewed	17
Ceilings, height increased ...	2	Walls, external rebuilt ...	3
Ceilings relathed ...	39	Walls, internal rebuilt ...	4
Cellars filled in ...	4	Walls, cemented internally ...	40
Cellar Lights, new Gratings and Frames provided ...	8	Walls, matchboarding re- moved ...	10
Cellars, cleaned out and limewashed ...	10	Walls, internal replastered ...	137
Coal places, new, erected ...	16	Walls, pointed or cemented externally ...	40
Demolished (or closed) ...	50	Windows made to open ...	30
Damp-proof courses put in ...	19	Windows, new, additional, put in ...	22
Door sills, new, put in ...	17	Windows, larger, put in ...	12
Doors, repaired and rehung...	58	Windows, repaired or re- newed ...	86
Doors, renewals ...	47	Windows, Sash Cords, Weights, and Pulleys provided ...	64
Doors, weather boards pro- vided ...	3	Yards, paved ...	21
Floors repaved or repaired ...	58	Paving repaired or relaid ...	32
Firegrates repaired or re- newed ...	46		
Food places repaved ...	15	<b>Sinks.</b>	
Food places, new, provided ...	4	Brick Sinks repaired ...	1
Hearth Ash-holes filled in ...	6	Brick Sinks removed ...	1
Roofs repaired ...	37	New additional earthenware put in sculleries or wash- houses ...	20
Roofs renewed ...	21	Earthenware Sinks in place of Brick ...	6
Repaired throughout ...	48	Sink waste pipes put in ...	7
Sculleries, new, erected ...	22	Sink waste pipes repaired ...	3
Sculleries repaved ...	22		

**Water Supply.**

Water Taps put inside houses  
or sculleries ... .. 28

**Drains.**

Relaid ... .. 4  
Reconstructed ... .. 16  
New chambers put in ... .. 2  
Ventilated ... .. 4  
New, put to houses ... .. 28  
Additional gullies put in ... .. 11  
Gullies renewed ... .. 11  
Repaired ... .. 13  
Obstructions removed ... .. 115  
Chamber covers renewed ... .. 2  
Syphons renewed ... .. 1  
Drains tested ... .. 9

**Ashpits**

Removed ... .. 8  
Houses, ashbins provided ... .. 31  
Houses, ashbins renewed ... .. 6

**Rain Water Spouting.**

New additional spouting at  
fronts of houses ... .. 3  
New additional spouting at  
rears of houses ... .. 19

Spouting repaired or re-  
newed at front ... .. 35

Spouting repaired or re-  
newed at rears ... .. 37

Downpipes lengthened or  
reconstructed ... .. 18

Box Gutters in footpath ... .. 7

**Water Closets.**

New, erected ... .. 13

Rebuilt ... .. 7

Additional provided ... .. 16

New Basins put in... .. 44

Flushing Apparatus repaired  
or renewed ... .. 40

Fresh water w.c.'s in place  
of slop w.c.'s ... .. 6

W.C. Water Supply pipes re-  
newed ... .. 24

Other Repairs ... .. 50

**Other Matters.**

Offensive accumulations re-  
moved ... .. 4

Overcrowding nuisances  
abated ... .. 20

Smoke nuisances abated ... .. 5

Other defects remedied ... .. 727

**SHOPS ACTS.**

There was one prosecution. This was under the Local Order relating to Tailors, Hatters, Hosiers, etc., for serving a customer after the Closing Hour. The offender was fined £3.

Exemptions were given under Section 10 (6) of the Shops Act, 1934, in respect of two shops.

Numerous warnings were given and information supplied as to the keeping of the various records and registers.

**PETROLEUM ACTS.**

Sixty-nine licences were issued, 57 to store Petrol only, 7 to store Petroleum only, 7 to store Petrol and Carbide of Calcium, and 5 to store Carbide of Calcium only. The sum of £42 15s. od. was received for these licences.

The licences were in respect of 70,720 gallons of Petrol and 7,968 lbs. of Carbide of Calcium.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR KENT.

*Sanitary Inspector.*







